

BENJAMIN GROVER.

[*To accompany bill H. R. No. 288.*]

JANUARY 19, 1832.

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Benjamin Grover, report:

Benjamin Grover enlisted 27th April, 1813, in Captain Silvanus Danforth's company, in the 30th regiment United States' infantry; in July or August following, while on fatigue duty, clearing a parade ground at Burlington, Vermont, he suffered a rupture while endeavoring to roll over a large stump. John Magoon, a fellow soldier then engaged with him, states that he, Grover, almost fainted. That he, Magoon, examined the place where Grover complained of injury, and found a rupture about as large as a hen's egg. Grover was unable to do duty for several days. Captain Danforth says that Grover complained to him of the injury, and he told him he had better present his case to the muster-master, and be mustered out of service. Grover refused, and with what duty he performed himself, and procured others to do for him, he served out the time of his enlistment. Petitioner is now poor, and for more than two years past has been deprived of eye sight. He states himself, that he is partially dependent on public charity for support. The proof is ample that before the rupture complained of, he was a hearty and stout man, and that he has since been able to labor but partially. Two surgeons, Abel W. Potter and Thomas Bannister, certified to be credible persons in their profession, after critical examination, declare that the disability under which Grover labors is not less than three-fourths.

Twice Grover has applied to the War Department to be placed on the pension roll, and has been answered, that the injury must be proved by a *commissioned officer*, or else no relief could be granted there. The impossibility of making such proof is manifest from the fact as proved, that no commissioned officer was present at the time, yet the injustice of withholding such relief as is granted to others in like situations, for mere technical reasons, would be shocking to the mind of any one who had the power to prevent it. Therefore the committee report a bill.

